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in marked contrast with those accorded past efforts in the field of eugenics. This is, perhaps, the most striking and encouraging feature of all. It represents an awakened conscience on the part of the American reading public to the fact that racial features determine the course of history, and that their control is far more practicable than was formerly supposed.

It is likely that in the future we shall look back upon this congress as simply a tiny step in the direction of what may then be accomplished, but at the present time it may be said to represent a changed viewpoint and an awakened interest which augurs well for progress in research and in the resulting accumulation of constructive knowledge in this field.

C. C. LITTLE

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### FREDERICK S. CRUM

Frederick S. Crum, born at West Candor, New York, on December 13, 1872, died accidentally by drowning near Oakland, Maine, on September 2, 1921, in his fiftieth year.

After graduating from Cornell University in 1893 Dr. Crum continued his studies there with statistics as his main field of work, receiving a master's degree in 1895 and a doctor's degree in 1897. His thesis for his master's degree was on the Vital Statistics of Massachusetts, 1850-90. This was in a real sense a preparation for the work of his later life and ripened into his earliest printed articles, one on the Marriage Rate in Massachusetts, which appeared in the *QUARTERLY PUBLICATIONS* in 1895 (Vol. IV, pp. 322-39) and another on the Birth Rate in Massachusetts, which appeared in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics* in 1897. His thesis for his doctor's degree on The Statistical Work of Süssmilch, which also appeared in this journal, though less an expression of his primary and predominant interest, is one of the few significant American articles on the history of statistics, and is still the one authority on its topic. It is freely cited by the Germans as the fullest summary of the work of their great statistician.

Almost immediately after ending his academic training he entered the service of the Prudential Life Insurance Company and soon became assistant statistician under Dr. Hoffman, a position which he retained with steadily growing usefulness to the company and the country until his untimely death.

Dr. Crum's most important statistical work lay in the fields of infant mortality and vitality, accident statistics, and the decrease in the native American stock. In the field of infant mortality he published a series of investigations (the first appearing in 1913) into the most fatal diseases of infancy and childhood, namely, measles, whooping-cough, diphtheria, and scarlet fever. Here also belong his two studies of infant mortality in the United States during the war years, 1917 and 1918, one on seasonal and geographical variations in infant mortality, and the other on infant mortality and its effect on the after-life-time of survivors. With this group should be placed the standard anthropometric tables for children 6-48 months old, started in connection with the better babies' campaign in his home city of Newark, later extended at the invitation of the American Medical Association, and finally used throughout the country by the Federal Children's Bureau. The campaign to secure periodical measurement of height and weight

of young children and a comparison of the results with these standards has probably been as potent as any single agency in diminishing the mortality and improving the physique of young children.

In the field of accident statistics his published work began about twelve years ago on the invitation of the Department of Commerce and Labor, when he prepared an extended report on accidents to railroad employees in New Jersey, 1888-1907. This was followed by a pioneer paper printed in this journal on Street Traffic Accidents (Vol. XIII, pp. 473-528), which greatly helped to start the present nation-wide movement for accident prevention. In the same field were several papers on the statistics of boiler explosions, on automobile fatalities, and on public accidents and their cost, all prepared, I believe, as by-products of his work as chairman of the Statistical Committee of the Public Safety Section of the National Safety Council. That Committee prepared standard forms to be used by city police departments in reporting public accidents. Before this was done some large cities made no reports and the others lacked a uniform system of reporting, so that no general results and no comparisons in space or time were possible. These forms for accident reporting are being put into general use for the first time this year. Their introduction is perhaps the most important recent contribution toward the prevention of accidents.

No American student has done more significant work in ascertaining the facts about "race suicide." After a preliminary article in a popular monthly he published in this journal in 1914 (Vol. IV, pp. 215-22) a statistical study of genealogical results, under the title "Decadence of the Native American Stock," which elicited a personal note of appreciation and congratulation from Mr. Roosevelt.

These diverse but related lines of effort were all unified and inspired by an intelligent and persistent aim to prepare the way for social improvement through an accurate determination of the facts.

Dr. Crum leaves a widow and two children.

WALTER F. WILLCOX

Cornell University

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

LONDON, November 2, 1921

*To the Editor of the*

*Quarterly Publications of the American Statistical Association:*

Sir:

Dr. Wm. H. Davis, chief statistician for vital statistics of the Bureau of the Census, Washington, draws my attention to my statement on page 820 of the September issue of your Quarterly Publications to the effect that "it would probably be impracticable for the federal government. . . to arrange for a federal as well as a state analysis of every single death in the country," and informs me that this is being carried out: "all the transcripts of death certificates are edited in a uniform way so that the statistics from all parts of the registration area are strictly comparable."

I shall be obliged if you will publish this correction on the point of fact.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR NEWSHOLME